5: Simons K-5 (ca. 1882) 1885
SC13 Goajiro SC13

been completely tamed by the Venezuelans. He, with of course his followers, have found honesty the best policy after all, and are now reformed and peaceful members of society, returned to breeding and agriculture. This shows what can be done with firearms combined with a little judicious tact and management.

The Indians build no elaborate dwelling-houses. Their best ranchos are simple, and constructed in a short time. The roof is covered with the split woody core of a tall euphorbia. This makes a good cool roof, impermeable to water and easily removed when the family flits. The rancho is seldom used for sleeping purposes; for this numerous poles (tokopa) are firmly fixed all over the place for swinging hammocks, often three and four to one pole, and crossing each other. Sometimes two and three sleep in a hammock. Further off other poles (pallmaler) are found, to tie animals up at, and a small corral or sheep-pen for the goats and sheep is also indispensable in every well-regulated family. The site of a rancho is always carefully chosen, much strategy being displayed in locating the whole, so that each rancho covers the other without itself being seen. Although villages are never attempted, yet a family rarely lives isolated. Everybody isolates himself with that leaguer of Guajira society, his relations. Their ranchos are always within gunshot distance, so as mutually to defend each other. One is invariably on high ground to dominate the country, the rest are hidden away in nooks and corners where least expected. If one rancho is seen, others are close at hand. In case of attack, this system prevents a whole family being exterminated. One or two ranchos may be taken, but the rest escape or fly to the rescue, as the case may be. All civilized the aborigines, as dear to the Indian, survives. Each rancho has a distinct name. Besides, every Indian who is anybody has several ranchos spread over the country. To collect the names of the ranchos would be paramount to taking a census of the territory. The following are well-known ranchos, with usually some half-caste from Riohacha trading with the Indians. In the Macuira range, six miles from Punta Espada, is Guaseyal, at the foot of Aca-ura; chief, Caijana, a Jusayu. Westwards, close to the sea-shore, Chicarana; chief, José Agustin, a Jolluvih, a half-caste speaking good Spanish. At the foot of Jinjare, Mayanipá, situated on a slight eminence eight miles from the sea, and is an important trading station. Puralaru, native name of Punta Estrella, boasts twelve houses and three low warehouses, with always two or three Riohachans resident there. The chief, Pedro Quinto, is Epieyu, but his sister Mauricia is the virtual ruler. Ishmil, 10 miles from Punta Gorda or Taroa in Misseray, another large trading station, usually with two or three Riohachans established there. The eight ranchos are well located on a plain between Macuira and Puraalá. The chief, Saipa, is Epieyu. This is one of the most central stations in the Guajira, and is surrounded by several important places; it is probably

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SC13 Goajiro SC13

the site of the old Spanish settlement San Juan de Lyapo. On the west side of the Paraki Hills in the plains is another well-known coastal trading station Jusuy; chief, Majuti, an Ipuana; probably near the old site of the Spanish settlement Rosario. In the neighborhood are: Guaripaaiyuri; chief, Cousin, an Ipuana. A Dutchman from Aruba has lived here many years, and has become quite an Indian. Alajuela, a few miles on an eminence commanding the whole valley. The Indians here are rather mixed, but the chief is a Paraujano. The well Kapushana, at the base of the hill, is the finest I saw, and surrounded with rich green vegetation similar to that of Maracaibo. Kattumaki, the most inland station. It is generally the traders that make a market here, for the Indians do everything they can to keep their shelves, if not empty, at any rate as much in the dark as possible. The plains being more unsettled than the mountain district, traders do not venture to establish themselves in the interior, as at Macuspana or Jusuy, so few marines are known. The most important place in the Lower Guajira, in Colombia, midway between Riohacha and the Venezuelan town of Las Guardias or Santa Teresa. Paraguaipoa, the new Venezuelan military colony, founded in 1882, counts already 50 houses. It is situated in the plains 12 miles in advance of Santa Teresa, which it completely covers. The garrison at present consists of 50 men, well mounted and found in every respect, under the orders of a commandante, two secretaries, and two interpreters; the latter for the purpose of taking statistics as to trade, &c. Altogether it is a model establishment, and does honour to the Government of Venezuela. The entire population of the Guajira may be about 30,000; it does not exceed 35,000, and is not increasing.

As regards manners and customs and the way they cultivate their old familiar laws, these Guajiros are particularly interesting. Of course, like all Indians, they are singularly predicted to begging, stealing, and drinking, but besides these capital vices they add a fourth, that is demanding compensation, tear or blood-money—principal cause of all the strife and blood feuds between the nation, and an everlasting danger to Indians and strangers alike. Whereas about one-quarter of the male population die a violent death from its result, another quarter are killed by drink and its effects. The laws that govern these compensations were are very intricate, their counter to logical. First is the terrible law of retribution, that makes a whole caste responsible for the acts of any single member. As the Spaniards or white men are considered by the Indians as belonging to one large family, the country is very unsafe for travelling, for every white man is a sort of hostage for the good behaviour of the others. If an Indian should be killed in a quarrel by a white man, the life of another white man, living hundreds away, depends upon whether the kin (relations of the dead Indian) or a friend brings the news first. Many an innocent commission trader has been murdered at one end of the peninsula for a foul murder committed at the other end.